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The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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Notes and News.

The N.U.W.S.S. Council.

The Annual Council of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies which will be held in London at the Essex Hall, Strand, on March 7th, 8th, and 9th, will meet in happy circumstances this year. The war is over; we have (many of us) taken part in a Parliamentary election; the Women M.P.'s Bill has passed triumphantly, and there has been an extraordinary advance in feminist feeling during the past year. We are tasting the fruits of our labours.

The Guardianship of Infants.

The National Union of Women Suffrage Societies has been giving careful consideration to the subject of the guardianship of infants. It hopes to get a bill brought forward in the new Parliament to amend the law about this very important mattter. We print on another page the text of the proposed bill as drafted. The object of it is as far as possible to give the father and mother of every child equal rights and liabilities as guardians of their infant children, and to give them the joint custody of each child. According to the present laws both of England and Scotland, the father is the sole guardian of legitimate children, and the sole judge of what shall be their maintenance and education, and he has *prima facie* the sole right to their custody; but the rights of the mothers are ignored. Nor is this the only serious blot on our legislation with regard to infants. As it stands at present the only machinery for compelling either parent to provide for the children is the Poor Law, and even a very wealthy parent may give very inadequate maintenance to his or her infant children. The Bill which the N.U.W.S.S. hope to get introduced is an attempt to remedy these defects. We hope that our readers will study the text of it, and, if they have knowledge on the subject, send suggestions and criticisms to the Hon. Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S.

Co-Ordination in Training.

A Sub-Committee of the Women's Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, under the chairmanship of Miss Susan Lawrence, has presented to Dr. Addison a Report urging the need of co-ordination in the provision of vocational training for women. The Committee urge that whereas before the war provision for technical instruction was mainly in the hands of the Board of Education and the local education authorities, the war has brought about a great diffusion of control. The training of pensioned widows has been small in extent. It is estimated that their numbers within the next six months will amount to one hundred and ninety thousand. Only four hundred and sixty have applied for training. Sanction for this has been given in two hundred and four cases, of which twenty seven were officers' widows. No communication has been made to the representatives of organised Labour with regard either to the curriculum or to the remuneration during or after the training, though advice has been taken with regard to possible openings. The number of bodies interested in training and the want of co-ordination between them may lead to serious overlapping and waste of energy. Before detailing steps to bring about co-ordination, the Committee expresses the opinion that a woman who is induced to spend time to learn a trade in which there is no opening for her has suffered a serious wrong, and that it is necessary, first, that persons should be trained only for occupations in which an ascertained opening for their labour exists; and second, that the training should be strictly practical in character. The national and local demand for trained persons for each occupation must, therefore, be ascertained, and the training must be carried on under the closest co-operation with those actually engaged in the industry itself. The Committee considers the co-operation between the Board of Education and local authorities, associations of employers and employed, and the Ministry of Labour is necessary. The actual training, so far as it is undertaken by public bodies, should be the function of the local education authorities acting either through private or aided institutions and under the control of the Board of Education. For each industry central and local advisory trade committees representing employers and employed should be formed to draw up an appropriate trade curriculum, to decide the rates of wages to be paid during and after the industrial course, to advise as to suitable openings in their industry, and to recommend technical instructors for appointment. The Ministry of Labour should be charged with the duty of finding out the demand for trained persons under any particular occupation. The Committee draw attention to the fact that though their enquiry concerned women alone, the considerations which have determined their recommendations are applicable to both sexes, and they leave it to the Minister of Reconstruction to consider how far their recommendations might be applied generally.

Demobilisation and Women Clerks.

There is a rumour that the dismissal of women clerks from Government offices is not being as wholesale and drastic as was expected. It has even been stated in the Press that the War Office is in need of more clerks, owing to the fact that so many members of its staff are the wives of officers who, now that their husbands may be returning home, wish to give up their clerical work and take to "woman's sphere." The Post Office, the Ministry of Pensions, and the Statistical Section of the Ministry of Food are other Government Departments in which, it is said, there is likely to be no decrease, and possibly an increase, of work; and for some women who have worked at Postal Censorship in foreign languages there are certain to be openings in commercial firms with foreign business. But these facts only to a slight extent mitigate the blackness of the outlook for women clerks: for their outlook, as well as that of women munition-makers is black, especially for the unskilled section. Many shorthand typists have received comparatively big wages, and prbably have, or ought to have, saved money; but the pay of the lowest-grade clerk in Government offices is poor. She and her kind will soon flood the labour market, dragging wages down. We think optimism in this connection mistaken and misleading.

NEW YEARS.

THE old order of the world is passing away. Governments have been found wanting; the people for whom and by whom these governments have been allowed to entrench themselves are face to face at last with a grim reality that upon them alone rests the ultimate responsibility: on their will it rests whether there shall be chaos or cosmos.

And at this stupendous moment it is that British women have been called from tutelage to citizen rights and citizen duties. There are women Parliamentary voters, in forty-eight hours there will be, we believe, women Members of Parliament, and this when the existence not only of imperial autocracies but of representative institutions as history has known them is challenged. Truly women who asked for responsibility have got what they asked for; truly they might cry aloud, as Joan of Arc and many a great leader has cried: "Give us back our old obscurity, our calm irresponsibility." Yet, these years of irresponsibility happy or unhappy have gone for always, there is no turning back. Is it then inevitable that the women go forward? It should be so, but there does still appear to be an alternative. The woman of little faith or courage may choose the daily round, the common task, and in so doing may win the easy approval of her unenlightened conscience and of her unthinking neighbours.

Many of the arduous war-works remain. The War Hospital Supply Depots or what not need help, housekeeping presents daily problems and makes demands upon time and strength no less strenuous than before. How can it be said that in answering these calls, as answered they must be, a woman is not doing "all that can reasonably be expected of her"? The routine jobs must be done; it would be wrong to neglect them. Nevertheless, we feel constrained to paraphrase a well-known saying and exclaim: "O duty, what crimes are committed in thy name!" The small daily duties are far from being crimes in themselves, but they become almost crimes when they prevent women undertaking higher and more dangerous virtues. A distraught world calls to them not only for action, but for every effort of the mind, the imagination, the will. If enfranchised women pass day by day only in an ever-recurring round of small things, they will ruin something of the best of their birth-right. In the new years new things must come to pass. Upheavals, cataclysms will confront an astonished humanity. Shallow people will be frightened—they will try to hide their heads. It is for the best women as well as men to refuse to go under, to see to it that the steadfast human will strong in faith and love shall assert itself above the raging of the storms. Therefore, what counts is, not only the daily duties performed, not only the political creed professed, not only what each man or woman does, but what he or she thinks and, above all, what she or he *is*. Ultimately, it is upon the quality of each individual citizen, in mind, in imagination and in will, that depends whether chaos or cosmos shall reign in the new years.

A. H. W.

The League of Nations.

When this country accepted with a heavy heart, in August, 1914, the choice of war, a conviction of the inherent folly and absurdity of the course of action forced upon us by circumstances was one of the most prominent features in that complicated and confused phenomenon which is sometimes called the national mind. It was monstrous that in this twentieth century thousands of good men should be marched out to death because an Austrian Archduke had been murdered somewhere far away in the Balkans, and because the honour or ambition of Austria and Germany refused to accept any other settlement of the questions in dispute. If it is right to speak of a national will and purpose at all, it is right to say that in willing war in August, 1914, this country had the conscious intention of making an end of the possibility of such tragedies in the future. Prussian militarism, we were told and we believed, was a permanent danger to the peace of Europe: Mr. Asquith had the country behind him when he said that he would not sheathe the sword until it was destroyed. We have since realised more and more fully another permanent danger to peace—suppressed, oppressed, and divided nationalities. Again, in willing the end we will the means. Here "Self-determination" is the phrase. The problems are extraordinarily complex, and not to be solved by a phrase; but we are now determined, as far as possible, to put an end to all suppression, oppression, and arbitrary division of national unities, which carry in them the seed of future wars. The war was described in 1914 as a "war to end war." The phrase correctly described our main intention at the time, and it should correctly describe it now. Does it?

Personal experience of the temper of our fighting troops, of the attitude of the infantryman in the front-line trenches during the long drawn out agony of the war could not but confirm the accuracy of this diagnosis of the national spirit. Our soldiers are not universally learned or well informed, and know little of modern history. They could not give you a reasoned account of the reasons why we went to war, or even a fairly accurate statement of the series of events which culminated in the world-war. In 1914 they used to repeat a little rhyme, the inaccuracy of which never troubled them. It ran, as far as I remember, like this:—

"I go one, says Austria.
I go two, says France.
I go three, says Russia,
While I have the chance,
I go four, says Germany,
And wipe you off the map.
But all fell dead, when England said,
'Gobblimey! I go nap!'"

But however little they knew about the war, they soon knew enough and to spare about War. And the more they knew of it, the deeper the conviction of its folly and futility sank into their souls. It is not even a fight, except to the spectators who sit at home. It is made up of long periods of boredom and discomfort, with hectic intervals of wholesale massacre. "What they ought to do in England," said one of my sentries to me in the trenches in the middle of the night—I was just going home on short leave—"What they ought to do now is to build asylums, lots of them. We shall all be mad before this war ends. I'm half off my rocker already." Our soldiers' one wish was to make an end of war. Willing the end, they willed the means. They were resolved to outlast the German, to "stick it out"; and they have done it. We have passed the first stage: the means are within our grasp. Are we going to fail in our purpose and let the end slip?

If war is to be made more difficult in the future, it can only be in one way—by a League of Nations, or, as the Americans prefer to say, by a League to Enforce Peace. All the nations of Europe must be joined together in a pledge to keep the peace, promising to fall with all their weight at the start on a transgressor. The idea of such a League is simple and easily grasped; and if the other nations of Europe have the same conviction of the folly and futility of war that we have, no difficulty of detail will stop its realisation. To a certain extent the difficulties of detail, of which much has been made, are reducible to the difficulty of deciding between alternative ways of doing the same thing. If we are all clear that the thing must be done, they will vanish.

What is the alternative? It is to go back to the old rivalry of armaments, to the perpetual hidden warfare of hostile national groups—Triple Alliances on the one hand, Triple Ententes on the other—until a fresh cataclysm of war, outdistancing this in horror, finally drives home the half-learnt lesson on an exhausted civilization, and in the end our grandchildren or great-grandchildren finally establish the League of Peace. For the League, sooner or later, must come. It is the only way. Let us take it now.

Our soldiers have fought a war against war. With the hatred of war in their hearts, they have borne themselves as bravely as any who loved war in past days ever bore themselves. Nearly a million of our countrymen have given their lives in the hope that we would see to it that this should be the last war. If we are true to the ideals which inspired them, if we have half the faith that they had, we have it in our power, not indeed to make

certain that there shall be no more war, but certainly to make it very improbable. Surely we are not going to be distracted by dreams of national aggrandisement, by weak distrust of our fellow nations, by a refusal to hold any intercourse with our beaten and disorganised enemies, from the plain, straight road which they followed to their death. Unless this war ends in a League of Nations, it ends in failure. Prussian militarism may be destroyed, but militarism will continue to flourish and enslave the nations. The only solution is the League of Nations. There are many difficulties for certain: let us face them. The thing must be done.

J. L. STOCKS.

Education and the Working Classes.

"Like Jem Sexton, I have been a sailor and a docker, and at the age of seventeen I was unable to read or write—I could fight better than either. I began to learn at that age, and of all the tragedies that can come to a thinking soul or an ardent nature, the tragedy of ignorance, a young fellow groping for enlightenment, groping in the dark, seeing no twilight, seeing no dawn,—that tragedy to my mind, is a blur upon my memory to-day. And when I had to carry, as our friend Sexton did also, on my back fifty, or sixty, or seventy tons a day, and then go home and tackle four hours of study, all that I can say is that I would not do it again not even for educational purposes. I have had to put in four hours of it and I had to go without meals to buy books. I have no love of the world or of the class that allowed me to grow up ignorant, and I have no love for the people who allowed me to pass by all the treasures of knowledge and all the accumulated genius of our greatest scholars and our greatest men. I gave up ten years of my life to to become an agitator absolutely through sheer hatred of poverty and misery. I want this Ruskin College to possess itself of some of the beautiful spirit of Ruskin himself, to see things beautiful, to make things beautiful, to love the seasons, to love the clouds, to love the cities and architecture, to love all things that are good."—BEN TILLETT.

To one who has moved among the working people the pathos of the above words is very poignant and real.

At a friend's house, some time ago, I met a quiet and delicate-looking fellow-guest, who was merely introduced to me by name, so that I knew nothing about him. The evening of his arrival I said something to him in German, and he replied in the same language with a perfect accent. Several days after he told me that he had been an agricultural labourer's son, and had left school at eight years of age. He spoke very bitterly of the struggle for self-education, recounting how he had strained every nerve for two whole years on one occasion to master a new subject, only to find at the end of that time that he had been studying from antiquated books on lines entirely discredited by later scientific research. When at last he had qualified himself to be, as he hoped, of some real service to his own class, he found himself physically and nervously worn out.

There was also a boy I knew who lived with his aunt. He left school, and went to work in a factory at thirteen years of age; the factory hours were from 6 a.m. till 6 p.m.; and this boy got up at five every day to fulfil certain household duties for his aunt before going to work; in the evening he sold papers. His aunt, who kept him entirely, allowed him sixpence a week for himself with which he bought candles and books from the "penny box," at second-hand bookstalls. Thus, he educated himself by the light of his candles in his fireless attic. When I made his acquaintance he was a puny, undersized, short-sighted youth of four and twenty, and a socialist of the most revolutionary kind. They usually pass through this stage, these starved seekers after beauty and knowledge; when they become older their socialism is deeper and quieter, but they grow less hopeful and very sad.

On one occasion I was speaking of the loveliness of the Greek myths to a group of women, when one of my friends turned on me fiercely. "Oh, you was lucky," she said, "you was at school till you was nineteen. I feel I want to go back to Standard III." It is curious how peculiarly the old myths and legends of an earlier humanity appeal to the half-child minds of the workers. Having told the story of the Choice of Paris once to a class of young women, a member of the class came up to me two years afterwards in a railway station, and asked me where the story was to be found. "I thought you told us it was in Tennyson," she said, "and me and my sister we borrowed one, and turned over every page, but we couldn't find no name like that beginning with an E." I shall never forget the look that came into her face when I explained that Œnone began with an O. With so great a longing for better educational facilities, one would have thought that Mr. Fisher's new Bill would have been hailed with acclamation by the leaders of thought among the working people, and in some instances this is so. Large sections of the people, however, preserve an attitude towards it of interested aloofness; attracted, yet doubtful; not hostile, but wary. Is it a bait? Is its object mainly to provide more efficient "hands" for the employers; a living machinery that shall be capable of being used to produce more?

It is held that the tendency is to greater bureaucratic and less democratic control. The co-operation of the parents is in no sense invited, on the contrary they only appear in the Act as suppliants (8.4), or delinquents liable to fines of from £2 to £5 (11.2.)

Now, in the main, the working class parents are genuinely anxious for the good of their children; but they are torn between present needs and future problematical advantages.

I heard the whole matter discussed some time ago at an adult school, between an employer of the best type and the working-class fathers. Men who attend adult schools are not men who are unaroused to a sense of the importance and value of education, but when a well-known employer present urged the raising of the school-age, outlining, in fact, a good many of the points in the new Bill, the men pointed out the bitter struggle which would thereby be imposed on the whole family.

The children of 13-16, they argued, eat more and cost more to clothe than at any other age, and their food is of more importance to them; and it seemed better to their fathers that their education should suffer than that these growing boys and girls should be under-fed. Moreover, they pointed out "all the littler ones have to go shorter in consequence, and that always means not enough for the missus."

At a large Labour election meeting lately the same point was raised, when one speaker urged a system of State maintenance in cases where the families were large, or the parents too poor to afford to do without the elder children's earnings; a little perfunctory and grudging applause was the only response. But when a later speaker objected to all these State doles, and insisted that a man's wages should be such that his family could be well brought up and educated without external donations, thunderous acclamation greeted the suggestion. It indicates the deep sense of sturdy independence and self-respect which dwells in the British artisan class; and it will be a bad thing for the nation when this English heritage of proud self-reliance is undermined. I have often been struck by the reluctance with which, in some of the worst days of unemployment in winter, the people have almost sullenly accepted school-meals for their children.

"I'd liever a' fed 'em, *meself*," said a man, a brass-caster of the roughest type, on one occasion. Yet, they are deeply concerned about the education question. The teachers they almost universally view with liking, confidence, and respect; but the Board of Education, what is that? It looms on their horizon as some undefined, uncomprehending thing like the Law or the weather; something which controls them inexorably, but which fails utterly to understand their circumstances, and over which they have no control. And, after all, what is the Board of Education? Well, it is not Mr. Fisher, for he is someone with a vision, and Boards may be corporate bodies, but they rarely have a soul. The Board of Education is an off-shoot of the Privy Council. Two of the last remaining executive functions of that body were the administration of funds for national education, and the protection of English cattle from diseases imported from abroad.

When in 1899 the Board of Education and the Board of Agriculture were constituted, the Privy Council ceased to exercise any practical duties whatever. There is thus some ground for the feeling that there is no, or very little democratic control over national education. It is something imposed on the people from the top, which—though it is, to some extent, under their control so far as local administration is concerned—can yet only be administered to those ends, and on those lines decided by the central authority.

Thus, we have Labour suspecting that "a master-class will not teach the truth to a subject-class; it is, indeed, incapable of seeing the truth as that subject-class sees it." Labour complains that the whole system of society which makes possible great wealth at one end, and dire poverty at the other is wrong, and it therefore considers that an examination of the whole structure of society should be the basis of any reconstructive scheme of education. It is certain that these ideas are getting down to the teachers, and even the children. Recently an elementary school-teacher of my acquaintance held a class of little girls about eight years enthralled on the subject of Settlement of Strikes by Arbitration! And another teacher has since told me that during this term just ended her class mutinied in the history lesson. "Why should we learn

about these old dead kings," they demanded, "we want to know what is happening now?"

Thus we have "The Plebs' League," endorsing a plea for "real working-class education"; and declaring that "education in any real sense is incompatible with the retention of the people in a helot status." This League is supported by the National Union of Railwaymen and the South Wales Miners' Federation, who own and control the Central Labour College, which is a centre for "furthering the interests of independent working-class education as a *partizan* effort to improve the position of Labour."

It is obvious that this idea of education is much too restricted and narrow; moreover, one class bias is as bad as another; and the end and aim of education should not be limited to obtaining better conditions, but should surely include the training of perception and intelligence, the culture and control of the imagination, and the enrichment of the whole mental and spiritual life.

The Workers' Educational Association "takes the whole of education in its view," and has thus a much wider horizon; but it is open to the objection that, in the main it gathers up crumbs from the intellectual feasts of "the master-class" and hands them down to "the subject-class." Nevertheless, its attitude always strives to be impartial. This paper is not necessarily to be taken as an expression of my own opinions on education. Personally I have some sympathies with both points of view and some disagreements; but I am not an educational expert, and do not know enough about it to judge. I am only trying to fathom the real sentiments of the working-classes towards the whole subject of education, only some of the aspects of which are touched upon here. They are the great mass of the nation, for the most part they *feel* rather than consciously think about matters like these; yet they indirectly contribute enormously to the cost of education, and are, many of them, as helpless as their own children under its formative influences. They cannot choose their curricula, their teachers, methods or books. They cannot influence the way in which facts are represented to their children. That they are vaguely dissatisfied is evidenced by such efforts as are made by the Co-operative Guild, which deliberately instructs its children in co-operative principles, and economics from the working-class point of view.

Of course the veriest amateur in education knows that certain elementary subjects and scientific facts, a knowledge of which must necessarily form the foundation of all education, cannot be affected by any kind of bias at all; but this cannot be said of the teaching of history for instance, of the choice of subjects for reading in the older classes, of the selection of poems and national songs, of the *omission* of certain subjects. Moreover, the chief thing lies not so much in any particular detail as in the *general direction given to the child's whole conception of life;* and it is that, I believe, which leaves the more thoughtful working-class parents dissatisfied and uneasy.

Wtih the dawn of the new era ushered in by Mr. Fisher's Bill, what opportunities for new and greater ideals! What scope for creating a nation with a vision!

Carol Ring.

A Ministry of Health.

Everyone is in favour of a Ministry of Health. It has been a popular subject of discussion for some time, especially during the last two years when the ravages of war impressed themselves on the popular imagination to a much greater extent than the ravages of disease have ever done. It is not that nothing is done for the health of the people; far from it. The array of Government Departments and local authorities which have a finger in the health pie is far too long to quote. It is sufficient to say that it includes 18 departments of State and 3,306* local bodies. But with all this solicitude for the public health there is convincing evidence that there still remains an enormous amount of preventable disease. What that means in suffering, in poverty, and in loss of comfort and happiness, only the wives and mothers, on whom so much of the burden falls, can estimate.

A Ministry devoted to the subject of health and of health only, and a Minister whose sole duty it shall be to prevent, or at least to provide the means of curing disease, are clearly called for. The National Health Insurance Act of 1911 may not have done all that was once claimed for it, but at least it has shown us the true state of the nation's health more especially as regards the condition of married women and the need for a more adequate treatment of the tuberculosis problem.

This revelation has been completed by the results of the examination of the nation's manhood for military service; about 40 per cent. having been proved to be unfit. The Prime Minister has summed up the situation in one of those phrases which do so much to convert public opinion, because they appeal to the public imagination:—"You cannot have an A1 Empire with a C3 population."

It may be asked then why nothing is done. Making due allowance for that failure to appreciate the scientific side of the health problem—that brilliant but also long and patient research work—which we are told is a national characteristic, it seems strange that a Ministry of Health has not been established during the war. The impulse to national unity and national regeneration which gave us the Representation of the People Act and the Education Act might surely have carried us a step further. Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that people desire a Ministry of Health for widely differing reasons. Some wish to see a larger and more physically perfect supply of "cannon-fodder" for the next war, and others see in an increase of national health and population the means of capturing the world's trade for the Empire. Others, with what seem to us to be higher ideals, are unable to persude themselves to will the means to the end—*i.e.*, to take up the burden of taxation and the sacrifice of personal freedom which is necessarily involved in most social reform. And if differences of motive can be composed, differences of method have proved almost insoluble. The very complexity of the present organisation for health is an opposing factor in the effort to substitute something simpler and more definite.

Will the Ministry of Health, when it is formed, be all that our hopes have pictured? Perhaps not, for I cannot but see a pitfall in the magnitude of the work itself. It has been said that a Ministry of Health will swamp every other department of the State, because health is concerned with every department of human life. I confess to a strong desire that the new Ministry shall not "bite off more than it can chew." It is above all as a research department and as an advisory rather than as an administrative department that its greatest future can be foreseen.

To give a practical illustration of possibilities I should like to refer to the wonderful demonstration of the ante-natal treatment for syphilis, given by Dr. Sequira at the London Hospital on December 18th. The percentage of success appeared to be not less than 80 and possibly higher, and the alternative is almost always death or the destruction of congenital syphilis. Forty-five happy babies and their mothers were present to point the moral.

In a recent pamphlet, "Race Renewal: the Ideal of a Ministry of Health," Dr. C. W. Saleeby gives us quite shortly and very clearly a survey of the new Ministry's functions, under the headings "To learn, to teach, to guard, to help." I should like to endorse every word of it and to recommend it as widely as possible. Dr. Saleeby is a real health enthusiast and manages to evoke a similar enthusiasm in his readers.

Finally, I believe that the health question appeals to every woman, and especially to those with children and households to care for. There will never be a satisfactory Ministry of Health unless women are admitted freely into the making and guiding of it.

Rosamund Smith.

* The figures are taken from Lord Willoughby de Broke's speech in the House of Lords, July 17th, 1918.

A Flax Camp in Yorkshire.

Flax waving to and fro in the sunshine; millions of blue flowers, things of infinite beauty living only for a day; brown butterflies flitting in and out among the flowers, themselves but creatures of a single hour. . . . The flowers have fallen, the butterflies are dead, but other wings are flying in the blue sky overhead: flax fashioned into wings.

A camp stands silent in the moonlight guarded by a gaunt old house as sentinel. From tent to tent a fine old hedgehog roves, shuffling along making a harsh rustling as he drags his bristles over the grass. Sleeping figures lie outside the tents as well as in their shelter. All is still. The first gleam of dawn sends Mr. Hedgehog back to the safety of the plantation, the sleepers begin to stir, figures flit to and fro from tent to house. Soon all around is heard the sound of fresh young voices—the children of the "purple" tent calling to the children of the "blue." Three hundred lassies waking and dressing! A

warning bell rings out, to waken sluggards. The breakfast bell is scarcely needed, for already hungry girls are trooping into the big dining-hall. Tent dwellers are telling of the joys of sleeping in the open, house dwellers are upholding the comfort of real beds instead of palliasses stuffed with straw. Forewomen are busy seeing that their "gangs" are supplied with lunch, and are ready to start when the bell rings again to announce the arrival of the motor vans that convey the workers to the flax fields.

They are a merry crew these secondary school girls. All are new to the work, all are anxious to excel, and are glad of this opportunity of doing real war work during the holidays.

They work lined up in long rows across the field, pulling the flax up by the roots, fashioning an armful into a "Beat." This is tied with a band of flax secured by a harvest knot. The forewomen follow behind the pullers stooking the beats.

Brown seeds have taken the place of blue flowers, but in spite of departed glories the flax field is very fair to see. Dresses of every shade, fair hair, dark hair, blue eyes, brown eyes, and pink and blue sunbonnets stand out against the background of green and brown. Eager schoolgirls are taking the place of departed flowers and butterflies.

Lunchtime comes as a welcome interval; sandwiches, with milk or tea made by the farmer's wife, are enjoyed in the farm yard, sitting in a waggon, or lying on straw, according to individual taste, and some are still sufficiently energetic to slide down the straw stack and to climb up again for the joy of repeating the process. Another spell of work follows this hour of rest, and after a six-hour working day the girls are driven back to camp, tired but happy, and ready to do justice to the excellent dinner that awaits them. Soon the piano is on duty, and the old house rings with song and laughter. As daylight fades they sing a hymn, and so to bed.

And in the moonlight once again stalks Mr. Hedgehog gazing in wonder at the strange intruders of his solitude.

A YORKSHIRE GROUP LEADER.

Reviews.

Literary Recreations. By Sir Edward Cook. (Macmillan. 7s. 6d. net.)

How many thousands of English-speaking men and women have turned to literature of late years, not only as a way of escape from anxiety or pain, but as the only approach left open to beauty when so many beautiful things became inaccessible under the constant menace of bombardment. Pictures, music, drama, for most of us ceased to be. Travelling for pleasure became a selfish indulgence. But just as we found that we had never realised the beauty of the English land so vividly as when faced by the threat of invasion and the nearness of the horror of war, so we never perhaps knew so well the treasures of English literature. Sir Edward Cook says that his *Literary Recollections* are the outcome of the wish to find consolation in the darkest years of the war. Written and published before the armistice, it was meant to unlock some of these treasures for war-time readers. The delightful essay on "The Second Thoughts of Poets" gives by itself a whole winter evening's entertainment. Probably, again, not one in a thousand of the admirers of J. M. W. Turner knew that he wrote verse, that the desire of his soul was to be a poet. Buried away in the vaults of the National Gallery, where Sir Edward Cook found them, lie the great painter's attempts to supplement his pictures by putting in verse the thoughts which he (perhaps wrongly) believed he could never express in his art. And if the verses fall immeasurably short of the paintings, they are valuable enough in the light they throw on the artist's mind. Every indexer who loves her craft, and everyone who has suffered from bad indexing or from the malignancy of the German habit of leaving heavy monographs without index at all to help students through their masses of more or less relevant matter, will appreciate the perfect index as sketched in Chapter III., and heartily applaud the wisdom of the Spaniard who said that "the index of a book should be written by the author, even if the book itself were written by someone else." But the chapter to which readers will turn with most eagerness will be the one upon biography, to learn secrets from the workshop of the writer of the *Life of Florence Nightingale* and the *Life of John Ruskin*. The secrets of the workshop are incommunicable, but here are some of them set out in print. Likewise notable is the essay on "Literature and Journalism," by one of the foremost editors of our time, with its diverting specimens of "journalese"; far funnier awful examples of English that come from our Controllers. It is not possible to quote any of these, nor yet, alas, from the pages on "Superlatives"—though the various poets' answers to such questions as "which are Tennyson's or Wordsworth's finest poems" stir up unexpected emotions, for who could possibly guess Swinburne's choice of the noblest sacred poem in English, or Tennyson's opinion as to his own most beautiful three lines? No, there is no use at all in quoting, so I will do better, and venture on a "Superlative" on my own. *Literary Recollections* is one of the two very best Christmas gifts this year, and as for the other one, all Suffragists know it already.

Wise Parenthood: A Sequel to "Married Love." By Dr. M. C. Stopes. Introduction by Arnold Bennett. A. C. Fifield, pp 32. (Price 2s. 6d. net.)

Dr. Stopes's book, *Married Love*, has, we believe, gone through five or six editions already, and the present little booklet, *Wise Parenthood*, has been published in order to meet the difficulties and answer the questions raised by the innumerable readers of *Married Love*. Its subject is birth control, and it gives in the plainest possible language information as to the ways—or way—in which control can be practised, with the least possible detriment to health, morals, and æsthetics. On a subject about which so extraordinarily little is known, it is a pity that no book accessible to the general public should have been written by a doctor of medicine. It is impossible not to feel that there are other dangers than those touched on by Dr. Stopes, in the methods she so courageously and lucidly discusses, and to wonder whether the knowledge she gives is not a good deal vitiated by the omission of points to which a doctor of medicine would surely have referred. On the other hand, if medical men and women will not put at the disposal of the general public such knowledge (in any case it is by no means exhaustive) as they possess on this subject, it was inevitable that someone should do what they have left undone; and we may be thankful that the person who has done, or begun to do this, should be Dr. Marie Stopes. We regret, however, the exceedingly brief and almost contemptuous reference (p. 8) to the method of birth-control which the author herself seems to regard as the ideal ("It is possible to imagine very highly evolved creatures who would only unite when they definitely desire a child"), but immediately afterwards dismisses as "with few exceptions" a "wrong" to oneself, one's partner, and the community. The possibilities of "very highly evolved creatures" is worth more attention than Dr. Stopes gives it.

A. M. R.

Correspondence.

WOMEN AND DOMESTIC SERVICE.

MADAM,—At the present time, when thousands of women are being discharged from munition factories, the possibility of their becoming engaged in domestic service has been in the minds of all those who are considering the problems of demobilisation. The large majority of the women who have been engaged in munition work were actually drawn from the ranks of domestic workers, and this is true also of the women enrolled in the auxillary war services and of the women tram and bus conductors. It may be safely affirmed, that these women, with few exceptions, do not intend to return to domestic service as carried on before the war, if they have any alternative. They have tasted independence, and have realised to the full the benefit of fixed hours of labour.

Domestic work is an unorganised trade, and has therefore been as a rule inefficiently performed. The present moment seems an excellent opportunity to organise it on a permanent basis and to give it a professional status. In munition areas and for the three Women's Services, the Government has arranged hostels under experienced administrators and matrons. We would suggest that, as an initial step, some of these buildings should be utilised as training centres for domestic work. Such a scheme would at once tend to employment and would be the beginning of plans to place this necessary industry on a sound basis.

In a majority of cases the scheme would be placed under the control of the local authorities responsible for education. A grant from the Treasury would be necessary for the initial expenses, but later on the scheme would certainly prove self-supporting. In addition to the general training department, provision should be made for a National Kitchen and Restaurant at each hostel, a Crêche and Day Nursery could also be attached to the institution, so that girls desiring to train for nursery work could have practical experience, the kitchen and restaurant meanwhile providing for experiments on the culinary side.

The scheme would not succeed unless the needs for service among all classes of householders were considered; lower middle class, and the working class must be catered for, and the charges for service must vary with the type of domestic help provided. Skilled expert help would be obtainable by the day or hour, application being made to the Superintendent of the institution. The scale of payment would have to be approved by the local authority.

We feel strongly that such a scheme would prove a benefit in any area in which it was started. It would be a means of improving the health of the nation, and it would standardise a service of vital importance to the well being of the country. We should hope that each local authority would institute a simple uniform, which would add to the smartness and attractiveness of the service. The war has taught women the many advantages of uniform, and in the future we should like one to become customary in all definite branches of domestic work.

It is clear that under existing circumstances there must always be a certain number of resident domestic workers for the care of children, the aged and infirm, and the sick. But such workers, even prior to the war, have generally had some special training and have been better paid than others. What is wanted is, to organise gradually for every town of considerable size a complete system of outside domestic service, employing capable trained self-respecting women and girls with definite status and honourable uniform, to replace the old-time charwoman, daily help, and "step-girl."

MARIAN BERRY. MARGARET MCKILLOP. LILIAN DAWSON.
Per the Fabian Women's Group.

MADAM,—In all the letters and articles which appear in the press from day to day on the servant problem, I have never seen the following two points touched on from the mistresses' point of view.

The first is that hundreds of women between the ages of sixty and eighty who live by themselves, ought not to be alone at night or in the early morning. In cases of old age and infirmity, it is, I think, necessary that their servant should "live in."

The second point is that there are thousands of women whose incomes (owing to the war) have been considerably lessened. If they are no longer able to earn their livings, they are quite unable to pay the high salaries which are now demanded by servants. Possibly, they are unable to get help elsewhere, and would never accept charity. What can be done for these women who do not voice their hard struggle? I have never seen their interests considered in the press. I suppose that no one feels capable of dealing with them.

I thoroughly approve of servants having every consideration and being safeguarded from sweated labour, in home-like situations on more friendly terms with their mistresses. I cannot call the situation a hard one and unworthy of superior girls.

M.C.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

MADAM,—At this period of reconstruction, when in every walk of life men and women are seeking to do what may best benefit the nation at large, an appeal is being made for a larger number of candidates for thorough training in Domestic Science.

Nothing in the war has been more clearly demonstrated than the value of women trained in this subject, and in all grades of society the desire for an intelligent and wide knowledge of Housecraft is being voiced. The supply of fully trained teachers of the subject is not equal to the present demand, and cannot, even if great numbers come forward in the near future, meet the crying need of years to come, especially in view of the Continuation Schools which will come into being under the ægis of the new Education Act.

The future of intending candidates is assured, salaries are being raised on a generous scale, there will be pensions after a reasonable period of service, and the career of the Teacher of Domestic Economy is one that can now be advocated from every point of view.

The Board of Education for the first time, are giving a Maintenance Grant to the actual "Trainee," and paying a larger instructional Grant to the training school on her behalf. This shows the increased appreciation of the Education Authorities for this profession. The condition attached to the acceptance of the Maintenance Grant is that there shall be a proportionate term of service in return, in one or more of the various types of recognized schools.

The work is interesting and diverse, gives scope for originality and self-expression, and it fits girls for any sphere of life, whether at home, or in the Empire beyond the seas. The minimum time of training for a recognized diploma is two years, though it is advisable to take a three or four years' course.

There are twelve Training Schools of Domestic Science in England, three in Scotland, one in Wales, and one in Ireland, and the various Public Examinations which admit students to training are detailed in the Training School Prospectuses. Probably, most of these Colleges are admitting students for training in January, and in view of the urgency of the matter, it is hoped that there will be a large response from well educated and suitable women and girls, in order that the Training Schools may be able to meet the present and future demand.

EDITH CLARKE.

Reports, Notices, etc.

WOMEN SANITARY INSPECTORS AND HEALTH VISITORS' ASSOCIATION.

12, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C. 2

The Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors' Association, have sent the following letter to the press and to the Local Government Board :—

SIR,—With reference to your Mr. Cross's letter of the 30th October, 1918, I beg to submit the following representations which this Association wishes to bring to your notice, through a deputation :—

I. SALARIES.

1. We ask that outside the London area a minimum scale of £120, rising by annual increments of £10 to £150, exclusive of war bonus be required by the Local Government Board, for all W.S.Is and H.Vs, other than Chief Women Sanitary Inspectors, Superintendent H.Vs and others holding similar appointments involving exceptional responsibility. For the latter appointments, we ask that a minimum salary of £150 be required by the L.G.B.

In view of the demand by local authorities for a progressively higher standard of educational and technical qualification from persons appointed as Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors, and the consequently increased cost of training for the profession, we desire that a minimum of £120 be required by the Local Government Board in all such appointments outside the London area. We note with satisfaction that this salary is recommended as a minimum for Health Visitors in the Board's memorandum on the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill.

2. We ask that the Local Government Board should require that the minimum salaries of Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors in all London Boroughs, and in the adjoining Urban Districts should at once be made uniform with those paid in the most progressive London Boroughs and Urban Districts, *i.e.*, a minimum salary of £150, rising by annual increments of £10 to £200, exclusive of war bonus.

A higher minimum salary in the London district is necessary for the following reasons :—

(*a*) The cost of living in the London district is at all times greater than it is elsewhere, chiefly owing to the greater value of land and house property, and the consequently higher rents

(*b*) It is the practice of most Local Authorities in and near London, to demand from persons appointed as Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors, in addition to the possession of high educational and technical qualifications, proof of previous experience in a similar post elsewhere. Persons so appointed should therefore receive a higher minimum salary than that paid to persons who have not held a previous appointment.

(*c*) We ask that a uniform scale of salary, as well as a uniform minimum be required by the Board throughout the Metropolitan area and adjacent County Boroughs and Urban Districts. The present practice, by which each Local Authority in the areas referred to fixes independently the scale of salary paid to its Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors is strongly deprecated by this Association. It enables certain Local Authorities to fix low maximum salaries—as well as low minima and rates of increment, and to retain the services of experienced Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors as long as these officers remain in the profession. This is because length of service under one local authority is not recognised by another in making a new appointment, and as the minimum salary is, even in the highest scale, less in amount than the maximum in a low one, it is impossible for a Women Sanitary Inspector or Health Visitor to transfer her services elsewhere, once she is in receipt of the maximum salary of a low scale. For instance, if she working in a borough in which the maximum salary is £150, she cannot afford, if she is already in receipt of that maximum, to transfer to another borough in which the scale is, say, £110 to £180, as she cannot suddenly reduce her annual expenses by £40.

3. We ask that the Local Government Board should require that Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors who have already been working for ten years in their profession should at once receive the maximum salaries referred to above, irrespective of whether the ten years have been spent in the service of the same Local Authority or not.

II. WAR BONUSES.

We ask that the Local Government Board should require that the amount of war bonus paid to Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors be not less than that of the current Treasury scale for women Civil Servants on the established staff.

At present, wholly inadequate war bonuses are being paid in some cases, and none at all in others.

III. HOLIDAYS.

We ask that the Local Government Board should require that the holidays of Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors be the same as those at present given to Health Visitors by certain Local Authorities, *i.e.*, six weeks annual leave, of which four weeks shall be summer leave.

At present the usual annual holiday given by Local Authorities is three weeks, though some authorities give as little as a fortnight. Three weeks annual leave in the summer is not long enough to enable a Woman Sanitary Inspector or Health Visitor to obtain the rest and relaxation necessary after a year's continuous work, involving as it does, an exceptional expenditure of nervous energy. In the case of a Health Visitor who is not also appointed as a Sanitary Inspector, all measures for the improvement in the health of those whom she visits have to be effected by tact and personal persuasion only, the exercise of which are a considerable strain on health and vitality.

In the case of Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors whose duties include the visiting of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, an additional risk of infection is involved when the visitor is over-tired and debilitated through lack of sufficient rest and relaxation.

IV. STATUTORY QUALIFICATIONS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

1. We ask that one statutory qualification for Health Visitors be established and required by the Local Government Board from persons appointed as Health Visitors subsequently to its establishment, but that the requirement of this qualification shall not be retrospective.

2. We ask that the Local Government Board should take steps to promote the establishment of a Health Visitor's Examination Board for England and Wales, analagous to the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board and to the Central Midwives Board, and that the possession of the certificate granted by this Board should be required from all persons appointed as Health Visitors subsequently to its establishment.

The present wide variation in the qualifications recognised by the Local Government Board is deprecated by this Association for the following reasons.—

(*a*) No preliminary educational standard is required.

(*b*) The recognition of the possession of the certificate of the Central Midwives Board as a sufficient qualification in itself for appointment as a Health Visitor, enables the certain Local Authorities to appoint persons possessing this qualification only, at a lower salary than would be accepted by persons possessing higher educational and technical qualifications. This practice tends to lower both the general rate of salary of Health Visitors, and the status of the profession.

With further reference to this subject we would recall your attention to the letter of this Association addressed to the President of the Local Government Board.

Trusting that this Association may shortly be given an opportunity of making these representations more fully through a deputation,

We are, Sir,
Your obedient servants,
E. ORANGE, Chairman.
A. SAYLE, Hon. Secretary.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Secretaries:
MISS MARGARET JONES.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).
Hon. Treasurers:
MRS. H. A. L. FISHER and MISS ROSAMOND SMITH.
Secretary:
MISS INEZ M. FERGUSON, MRS. HUBBACK (Information and Parliamentary).
Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarter Notes.

The Annual Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5th, Thursday, March 6th, and Friday, March 7th, at the Essex Hall, 3, Essex-street, Strand.

It was with great regret that the officers and staff said good-bye to Miss Annie Cooke, who has been with the National Union for some twelve years. Miss Jean Agnew has left to take up an appointment with the Ministry of Health Watching Committee, and Miss Inez M. Ferguson has been appointed Secretary.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies hopes to get a Bill brought forward for the amendment of the law relating to the guardianship of children. We print below the draft of the proposed Bill and shall be glad to receive criticisms or suggestions from readers of THE COMMON CAUSE. These should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S.

A BILL TO

Provide for the joint guardianship and custody of every infant under the age of 21 years by the father and mother of such infant and in other respects to amend the Guardianship of Infants Act 1886.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1.—This Act may be referred to as the Guardianship of Infants Act 1919, and shall take effect from *1st January*, 1919.

2.—As from the *1st of January*, 1919, the father and the mother of every infant under the age of 21 years shall be deemed to be for all purposes the joint guardians and shall have the joint custody of such infant and have equal authority, rights, and responsibility with regard to such infant, notwithstanding any statute or rule of law heretofore in force to the contrary.

3.—As from the *1st January*, 1919, both the father and the mother of any infant shall be deemed to be jointly and severally liable for the cost of the maintenance and education of such infant according to the means of such father and mother respectively, and such liability shall be capable of being enforced under this Act by the father, mother, guardian, or next friend of any infant against the father and mother of any such infant jointly or either of them separately and against the heirs, executors, or administrators of any deceased father or mother, or against any trustee or other person having funds or property in his control available for such maintenance or education.

4.—The Court *shall* upon the application of any such father, mother (who may apply without next friend), or other person on behalf of any infant make such order as it may think just in accordance with this Act regarding

(*a*) the custody of such infant and the right of access thereto by either parent or any other person;

(*b*) any payment for the maintenance, education, or benefit of such infant by either the father or the mother to the parent or other person having such custody under any Order of the Court made on the same or any previous application whether under this Act or otherwise.

5.—In making any such Order as to custody and access the Court shall have regard to the welfare of the infant and to the conduct of the parents and to the wishes of the mother (*which shall have equal weight with those of the father in every respect*).

6.—In making any such Order as to payment by any such father or mother the Court shall have regard to the ability of such father or mother to pay any such allowance and to the position or condition of life in which it is reasonable that such infant should be brought up.

7.—The Court may at any time alter, vary, or discharge such Order on application as aforesaid, and in every such case may make such Order respecting the costs of the application and the liability of the father, mother, or such other person as aforesaid for the same or otherwise as to costs as it may think just.

8.—The father and mother of any such infant born or to be born at the date of such appointment shall each have the same right severally to appoint a guardian or guardians of such infant by deed or will as from his or her own death as the father had under any statute heretofore in force, and the guardian so appointed shall act jointly with the surviving parent and have equal power and authority with him or her. Where both parents are dead the guardian or guardians appointed by the father and mother respectively shall act jointly.

9.—Sections 3, 5, 7 and 13 of the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1886 (hereinafter called the Act of 1886), are hereby repealed as from the 1st January, 1919, but this Act shall for all purposes be read with and interpreted in the same manner as the Act of 1886, and all expressions in this Act shall have the same meaning and the Courts have the same powers as in and under that Act.

10.—Nothing in the Act of 1886 or in this Act contained shall restrict or affect the jurisdiction of the High Court of Justice in England and of the High Court of Justice in Ireland or of any division of the said Courts and of the Court of Session in Scotland, to appoint or remove guardians, or (in the case of Scotland) tutors or factors, loco tutoris or otherwise, in respect of infants, except as to any express restriction contained in either of the said Acts.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

DECORATION OF SEVENTEEN S.W.H. MEMBERS OF ROYAUMONT AND VILLERS-COTTERETS STAFF, ON DECEMBER 13th, WITH CROIX DE GUERRE, BY GENERAL NOURISSON.

The telegraphed list says thirty Croix de Guerres altogether were awarded to members of the S.W.H. staff in France; as only twenty-two names have appeared in the Continental *Daily Mail*, and as I understand only twenty-four Croix de Guerres were awarded, it is likely that the others were given to the French military infirmières who were with the staff at Villers Cotterets, and several of whom escaped to Royaumont afterwards, and were permitted to stay and work with us; or the correspondent may have got his figures mixed up with some decorations being given at the same time to soldier patients in the hospital.

The telegraphed list appearing in the Continental *Daily Mail* was as follows:—

MISS FRANCES IVENS, Médecin-Chef; MISS NICHOLSON, "Second-in-Command"; MISS COURTAULD, Anæsthetist and Physician; MRS. BERRY, Surgeon and Physician; MISS MARTLAND and MISS HENRY, Surgeons and Physicians; MADAME MANOEL, Bacteriologist; MISS EDITH STONEY, D.Sc., Radiologist; MISS COLLUM, Radiographer-in-Charge, X-Ray Dept., Royaumont; MISS RAMSAY SMITH, Secretary of the Unit, and *Officier Gestionaire* of Hôp. Aux. d'Armee 30; MISS O'ROURKE, Matron, Royaumont; MISS LINDSAY, Matron, Villers Cotterets; Sister GOODWIN, Theatre Sister; MISSES ANDERSON, INGLIS, CHAPMAN, ROLT, SMIETON, ARMSTRONG, DAUNT, volunteer women orderlies promoted to special work; MISS MURRAY, Head Chauffeur; MISSES FULTON and SMEALE, Chauffeurs.

A correspondent has kindly sent us the following notes:—

Miss Frances Ivens, M.S. Lond.—Head of Unit, Médecin-Chef and Chief Surgeon of both hospitals. Already decorated with Médaille des Epidémies in Gold, and Croix de Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur—first in March, 1917, second in November, 1917. Took the original French Unit out on November 30th, 1914, having previously been out under Belgian Red Cross to Antwerp. Is Chief Surgeon of the Stanley Hospital for Women in Liverpool, and a specialist in gynæcological surgery. She has served since December, 1914, until the demobilisation of the Unit (by 1st January, 1919), *only once* having taken a fortnight's leave when she was invited, in December, 1917, to read a paper on Gas Gangrene before the Surgical Section of the Royal Society of Medicine (on whose Committee, I think, she serves). Miss Ivens was asked by Miss Elsie Inglis herself, to go to France and take out the French Unit, in September, 1914. Miss Ivens took two ambulance loads of reinforcements up to the hospital at Villers Cotterets (of which, at that time, Mrs. Berry, M.D., was Acting-Médecin-Chef, with Miss Martland as Chief Surgeon, and Miss Henry as Second Surgeon) on May 27th, in the afternoon, the day the German offensive on the Aisne was launched. From that night, until the hospital was evacuated at half-an-hour's notice, under shell fire, on the afternoon of May 30th, the neighbourhood of the Camp was bombarded by German Flying Squadrons night and day, several bombs falling within a couple of hundred yards of the huts. While all worked hard, it is a fact that Miss Ivens, and Miss Anderson, "Assist. Acting Theatre Sister," never took their clothes off, nor got any rest, from the afternoon of the 27th, when they went up to Villers, till the early hours of May 31st (when they came back to Royaumont) working continuously in the Operating Theatre. When Miss Ivens' Assist. Surgeons went off duty to take a couple of hours' rest, Miss Ivens continued; calling for volunteers to enable her to keep the Theatre running. Dr. Courtauld, the anæsthetist, and Miss Anderson (acting as First Theatre Sister when the professional Sister had retired to take some rest, in addition to having run one operating table all the time the First Sister had been on duty), stayed on with her, and carried on during the worst air attack of all, when no lights were permitted in the camp but two carefully shaded candles in the Theatre. Miss Anderson afterwards described the Theatre to me as "a hell and a shambles." The cases came in too fast to allow the staff to clear up, and once they had seven thigh amputations running. Sister Goodwin, also decorated, was in charge of the Receiving Room of the Operating Theatre on that occasion. Misses Inglis, Chapman, and Smieton volunteered to do extra duty in connection with the operating theatre after they were off duty in the wards, where they were acting as "Second Sisters," and thus were in sole charge during half the time. Miss Ivens went on operating up till 1 p.m. on the 30th, when the (Medical) Colonel in command of the hospitals at Villers Cotterets came into the theatre and ordered the immediate evacuation of the hospital. She then despatched all her wounded by American ambulances to Senlis, sending a sister on each car to look after the men, many of whom had only that morning been operated on, and a number of whom were amputation cases; then the junior members of the staff were sent off on foot to find their way to Crépy-en-Valois or Senlis as best they might. Miss Ivens herself, with Doctors Berry, Courtauld and Martland, and Misses Anderson, Inglis, Chapman, and Miss Stoney, Radiologist, and a few others remained to pack as much of the scientific instruments and apparatus, drugs, &c., as possible, to take away with them as soon as our Royaumont cars should arrive to fetch them, and also to pack up other equipment and personal goods in case the town was not captured, and the military could get back with lorries to fetch the equipment away (as indeed was done, after considerable looting had taken place when the Germans were expected to capture the camp).

This party was duly picked up by our Royaumont cars (Miss Murray, chief chauffeur, Miss Middleton, second chauffeur, Miss Graham, Miss Fulton) who had during the afternoon been occupied in helping the French to evacuate wounded from Villers Cotterets to Senlis, along with all our other cars—arriving back at Royaumont during the night of the 30th and small hours of May 31st, having to run the gauntlet of a terrific aerial bombardment of Chantilly—through which town they had to run, lights out, at full speed, practically racing a low flying machine flying above and trying to bomb the road—and a general attack of all the roads from Villers to Royaumont. Miss Ivens began operating that same morning, and for a week never went to bed for more than three or four hours at the most, frequently being called up during this short rest to

some difficult and urgent case. During the next fourteen days over one thousand operations were performed, and Miss Ivens herself did by far the larger share of them.

Miss Ruth Nicholson, M.B., Ch.B.—Second Surgeon, and during the absences of Miss Ivens at Villers Cotterets, Chief Surgeon, and for some time Acting Médecin-Chef at Villers Cotterets (in 1917). Miss Nicholson went out with the original Unit in 1914, with Miss Ivens, and has stuck to her post till the demobilisation of the Hospital (January, 1919). She received the Silver Médaille des Epidémies in March, 1917. She was in charge at Royaumont during the absence of Miss Ivens at Villers Cotterets, and was responsible for clearing out the hospital at Royaumont, ready for wounded from the Aisne, on May 29th, and for sending every car in the garage to the rescue, to evacuate Villers Cotterets, on May 30th, and for all the preparations for the big work to begin on May 31st. Like Miss Ivens, she never took more than three or four hours' rest at the most for a fortnight; and relieved Miss Ivens of a great deal of the responsibility and worry of the terrific period of work between May 31st and the end of June. After that she broke down and had to go to England for a month's rest.

Mrs. Augusta Berry, M.D. Lond.—Assistant physician and surgeon. She went out to France wih Miss Ivens with original Unit in 1914, and was invalided home in June, 1918. Was Acting Médecin-Chef at Villers Cotterets during May. Like Miss Ivens, she started work at Royaumont almost as soon as she got back from Villers Cotterets during the small hours of May 31st. She took very little rest, although she was due sick-leave before the attack at Villers Cotterets; and finally broke down from over-work and over-strain in June, and is still ill.

Dr. Elizabeth Courtauld, M.D. Lond.—She joined the staff at Royaumont as Anæsthetist and Physician—so far as I can recollect—in November or December, 1915, having been unable to return to her medical work in India. Was Acting Médecin-Chef at Royaumont when Miss Nicholson was Acting Médecin-Chef at Villers, and during Miss Ivens' absences at the other hospital. Thereafter, when Miss Nicholson returned to Royaumont as Chief Surgeon, Miss Courtauld relieved her of the general medical *administrative* duties, leaving Miss Nicholson free to superintend the surgical work generally. Miss Courtauld was at Villers Cotterets exchanging with another doctor—for a rest—when the May 27th offensive was launched. After nearly incessant work anæsthetising during those few days, she started again at Royaumont almost as soon as she arrived in the small hours of May 31st, and was giving anæsthetics steadily for perhaps eighteen hours out of the twenty-four for that first week. As the neighbourhood of the camp at Villers Cotterets was being intensely bombed during the operations there, and there was an air attack on back areas all around Royaumont, almost every night, during May, June, and the early part of July, the strain on the anæsthetist was pretty severe. Miss Courtauld, affectionately known to the older members of the staff as "Mammie" (a nickname earned in the Somme work of 1916, when her ward of Native troops addressed her as "Maman") was remarkable for her good temper, humour, and quiet common sense during a period of extraordinary nerve strain.

Miss M. Martland, M.B., Ch.B., Lond.—Surgeon. She joined the Royaumont staff during the Somme work in 1916. Was untiring in the way she assisted Miss Ivens operating at Villers Cotterets during the historic three days, and again at Royaumont as soon as she came back, although it was well-known that she was on the verge of a breakdown before the attack of the 27th began. She did not leave the hospital till the late summer of this year, when she was relieved, and had a severe breakdown on her return to England, from the effects of which she is still suffering.

Miss Henry, M.B. (Edinburgh).—She joined the staff at Royaumont in the summer of 1917, and was moved to Villers-Cotterets in the autumn of that year. Came back to Royaumont in the spring of 1918, and went up to Villers-Cotterets with Miss Ivens on May 27th. Took charge of a party of the younger orderlies who were sent off from the camp on foot, early in the afternoon of May 30th, and started work at Royaumont early on 31st. Worked very hard, and took no more rest than she was ordered to take by her seniors, and relieved them of as much work as she could.

Madame Manoel, Doctor of Medicine, Roumania.—Madame Manoel joined the Royaumont staff as Bacteriologist in the summer of 1917, from the Pasteur Institute. She is a Roumanian doctor, and along with the other women doctors of her country was mobilised in the Medical Service of the Roumanian Army when our ally joined us; holding the rank of Lieutenant. Subsequently she married a French resident—on the staff of the French Military Mission—and when the French ordered the evacuation of all French subjects from Roumania in 1917, Madame Manoel was sent to France and parted from her husband. She drowned her anxieties and her sorrows about the forced peace of her country, in hard work at our hospital, and during the heavy work of the Aisne offensive, she ensured that a bacteriological examination took place in the case of every wounded soldier admitted; in addition, she often relieved the anæsthetist in the Theatre. Madame Manoel co-operated with Professor Weinberg of the Pasteur—who introduced serum for the treatment of wound infection by gas-producing organisms that result in gangrene—and was able to contribute a good deal to the successful totals quoted by Dr. Weinberg in his great book (published this summer), by the care with which she carried out her examinations of our cases, and recorded the bacteriological results. (Dr. Weinberg, in his book, quotes a large proportion of his cases from Royaumont.)

Miss Edith Stoney, B.Sc. Lond.—Miss Stoney, after having acted as Radiologist to other Units of the S.W.H. in the East (attached also to French forces), joined the Villers Cotterets staff as Chief of the X-Ray Dept. there in November, 1917, first taking charge—temporarily—of the Royaumont Dept. for two and a-half weeks while the Radiologist-in-charge went up to Villers Cotterets to deal with a sudden rush of work, Miss Stoney carried on the X-Ray Dept. at Villers Cotterets all through the bombing, though the vibration alone was almost enough to put the delicate apparatus out of action. When the order was given to evacuate by train—on the 29th, I think—she superintended the dismounting of the entire apparatus, and its packing for transit, and then, when the counter-order was received from Medical H.Q. to remain, and make ready for another large convoy, she superintended its refitting in a remarkably short time. When the camp was finally evacuated, Miss Stoney again dismounted and packed her apparatus, hoping for a chance to salve it later. This she obtained, on 2nd and 3rd May, when—the Germans not having advanced nearer than Longpont to our camp—she was taken up to the deserted hospital by one of the Royaumont chauffeurs (not one of those decorated) and at considerable risk from bombardment she and the chauffeur managed to save the most important parts of the best (Gaiffe) X-Ray outfit Having been given our ante-room, in the Royaumont X-Ray Dept., she superintended the setting up of this apparatus at Royaumont, and from May 4th helped with the enormous pressure of work on the X-Ray Dept. Her heaviest week was the one that followed, when—owing to an accident—more work was turned over to her room. Villers Cotterets *équippe* (for we each retained our own staffs) made one hundred and sixty-four X-Ray examinations. Miss Stoney proceeded to work under difficulties—for her apparatus had become considerably damaged in transit—until the middle of July, when she went home on leave. From her return she has worked on till the demobilisation of the hospital.

Miss V. C. C. Collum.—Radiologist-in-Charge, X-Ray Dept., Royaumont. Miss Collum volunteered as motor driver for French Unit in September, 1914. Is perhaps the only member of Unit, besides Miss Ivens, who possesses a letter from Dr. Inglis herself, appointing her to the Unit (dated November, 1914). Was instrumental in appealing for motor ambulances in the English press in 1914, and was the first to offer as a motor driver to Miss Inglis. Was not sent out to Royaumont till February, 1915. Did not go as chauffeur, but as general-service (nursing specifically excluded) Orderly. On arrival she was given charge of the Vestiare, and promoted to mess with the medical and administrative staff. In July, 1915, at her own request, she took the place of the X-Ray orderly, on leave, in order to learn the work. She was attached to the X-Ray Dept. as regular assistant towards the close of September, 1915 (when the attack of September 25th in Champagne and Artois was launched. She went home on first leave in February, 1916. On way back to France was badly injured when the *Sussex* was torpedoed on March 24th, 1916. She was in hospital in London for one month; outside treatment for two weeks. Then after three weeks' convalescence, returned to duty on May 31st, 1916, and had very hard work, in joint charge of the second X-Ray room with a fellow assistant, Miss Phyllis Berry, during the Somme battle of July-August-September. On August 1st, 1917, she was placed in charge of the X-Ray Dept., Royaumont, when one of the installations and the X-Ray doctor, Miss McDougall, and the assistant, Miss Berry, were all removed to the new hospital at Villers Cotterets. Handed over—temporarily, until Miss Berry's return as Radiologist-in Charge, Royaumont—to Miss Stoney in November, 1917, and went temporarily to take charge of X-Ray Dept. at Villers Cotterets for twenty days, during a sudden rush of work. She returned to England November, 1917. Offered to return, in any capacity, to help with X-Rays, in the March 21st offensive, and was telegraphed for to take Miss Berry's place, temporarily, as Head of Dept. in April this year, Miss Berry having fallen ill. Was in charge of X-Ray Dept., Royaumont, until Dr. Savill—also temporary—relieved her towards the end of July. Had very hard work from May 31st. Did eighty-five X-Ray examinations herself in the first spell of twenty-four hours without rest. Royaumont *équippe* did eleven hundred X-Ray exams. between May 31st and July 13th, an absolute record, since not more than 9,000 examinations had been made at Royaumont (and less than 1,000 at Villers Cotterets during its existence of 10 months) in its 3½ years of existence. On hands and neck becoming burned from too much exposure, she relinquished the actual examining in her room to her Assistant, Miss Florence Anderson, on June 9th; but she did all the reporting on cases, and ran the Dept., and at night relieved our X-Ray developer, Miss Grandage, in the Dark-Room. Left Royaumont, July 30th.

Miss Ramsay Smith.—Secretary of Unit. Miss Smith joined the Royaumont staff as Orderly during the Somme fighting, 1916, and was commended by all as a hard and good worker. She was transferred to the Office, as Clerk to Miss Cicely Hamilton, after her first six months, and when Miss Hamilton left the Hospital in June, 1917, took her place as Secretary of the Unit. She became also *Officier Gestionnaire* of the Hôpital Benevôle at Viller Cotterets when it was started in July, 1917, and when that hospital was evacuated on to Royaumont, May 30th, and eventually absorbed Royaumont — becoming Auxiliary Army Hospital No. 30 on July 18th last—she became *Officier Gestionnaire* of the joint Army hospital.

Much of the success of the Villers Cotterets Hospital was due to Miss Ramsay Smith's administrative organisation, and great credit is due to her for her management of the hospital, at Royaumont, during the period of terrific work this summer—all such matters as revictualling, business management, arrangement of funerals, transport, military records, &c., falling on her office—the organisation of the salving of the staff's personal baggage by the chauffeurs in the intervals of their other work, and at considerable risk, was due to her, as also the large proportion of the Villers equipment afterwards recovered—from such distant places as Pont Oise and Meaux, whither parts of it had been transported along with other military hospital material when the Army salved the stores remaining at Villers. In addition to her own very heavy work and responsibility, Miss Ramsay Smith was usually to be found, at night, during the heavy work of the first week after May 31st, acting as a relief to the Theatre orderly. Some credit is also due to her for the tactful manner in which she, an orderly of not very long service, took over her position as Secretary and acting administrative officer of the Unit, without offending the susceptibilities of those Sisters and long-service Orderlies under whom she had formerly worked, and over whom, in some sense, she was then placed in authority.

Miss O'Rorke.—I do not remember if Miss O'Rorke went out with the Unit in 1914, but she was there as Night Sister in charge of a newly opened ward in March, 1915, as I remember. She remained at Royaumont until its demobilisation, except for six months in 1916 or 1917, when she was working in Italy in an English staffed hospital under the Italian Red Cross—in Rome, I think. She became Matron at Royaumont, by seniority of service as a Sister, in the autumn of 1917, and was Matron during the stress of work this summer. Miss O'Rorke had previously been working in Brussels, in the Nursing Home and School presided over by Miss Edith Cavell, but was in England when war broke out. Matron O'Rorke was remarkable in the way in which she managed to keep a hospital of 400 beds, acting as a C.C. Station, *orderly and neat*.

Miss Lindsay.—To the best of my recollection Sister Lindsay joined the Royaumont staff in March or April, 1915. She became Sister-in-Charge, by seniority of service, at Royaumont in 1917, and showing herself to be a remarkable organiser during the despatch of the equipment to the

new hospital at Villers Cotterets in July and August of that year, was invited to return to France—after sick leave that autumn—as Matron at Villers Cotterets. The organisation of the nursing and the staff during the three days when the work had to be carried on under such trying and uncertain conditions, and with a shortage of trained Sisters, and during which period the steadiness and skill of the Volunteer orderlies promoted Auxiliary Nurses—which step Matron Lindsay had always advocated and backed up by helping to train the Auxiliary Nurses, and by giving them responsible work—was so remarkable as to earn for several of them the Croix de Guerre. All this good organisation and steadiness under fire was largely the result of Matron Lindsay's good work. She was suffering considerably from overwork and overstrain, but on her arrival at Royaumont she took her part in the work, under the Royaumont Matron, as an ordinary Sister (acting as Night Superintendent) until the worst of the emergency was over, when she went home on leave. She has now left the hospital, as there is not room for two Matrons.

Miss Goodwin.—I do not know when Sister Goodwin joined the Villers Cotterets staff, but she acted as Sister-in-Charge of the Salle de Pansement, or Operations Theatre Receiving Room, during the period of stress, being faced with streams of wounded men, who arrived in ambulances and on foot, and were simply dumped there to be dealt with somehow. When they all got back to Royaumont, Sister Goodwin was given charge of the Second Operating Theatre.

Miss Agnes L. Anderson.—Miss Anderson joined the Royaumont staff as a volunteer orderly in April, 1915, and remained until August 15th, 1918, when she retired from work in need of a long rest. Miss Anderson was taken out of the wards and put into the Operating Theatre in September, 1915, and has worked in the Theatre right through her service, with the exception of one month's service as Night-Sister-in-Charge of Ward on two occasions. By the Somme battle of 1916, she was already so well trained that she acted as Second Theatre Sister, and in the following year was frequently required to act as Theatre Sister during the absence of the First Sister, notably for a month when the Theatre Sister was on home leave. She was taken up to Villers Cotterets by Miss Ivens on May 27th to take charge of the second Table in the operating theatre there, and worked straight on, without taking her clothes off, till 1 p.m. on May 30th, when the order came to them in the theatre to evacuate at once. During the nights, when the Sister-in-Charge of the Theatre had to take some rest, Miss Anderson, on being appealed to by Miss Ivens to "carry on in the theatre somehow," herself did the night work as well, scraping together an assistant staff from among the promoted orderlies going off duty for a short rest from the wards. The wounded came in so fast towards the end that they were brought straight into the theatre, and had their clothes cut off them there and then, and their wounds attended to. The room was like a shambles, and during the worst of the air attacks Miss Anderson had to manage the work of the theatre—as well as hand instruments—by the shaded glow of two flickering candles, while the wooden-floored hut kept rebounding to the vibration of the bombs falling quite near, and to the explosions of a bombed train of munitions on the line running past the camp, making everything clatter and leap about. The Germans were so near that Miss Anderson has told me that she expected any moment to see a German officer walk into the theatre and declare them prisoners. After the wounded had been evacuated by the Americans, and most of the staff had gone, Miss Anderson stayed with Miss Ivens and the little group of doctors and long service orderlies who remained till the evening to pack up, and was responsible for saving all the theatre instruments, which she brought safely back to Royaumont. She arrived at Royaumont at 1 a.m. on May 31st—not having been in bed since the night of May 26th—she was on duty again in the Royaumont principal theatre in the afternoon, and worked on till 6 a.m. the following morning. For several days she worked in the theatre for eighteen hours, thereafter being responsible for the principal theatre from 8 p.m. till 9 a.m. the following morning, the Theatre Sister being responsible during the day. Miss Anderson did not only do the work of Theatre Sister: she did a very large share of the cleaning up, which normally should have been the work of her subordinates. The sterilising was all in her charge, and the aseptic conditions for which the Scottish Women's Hospital was justly famous in the French Military Medical Service was very largely due to the meticulous care which Miss Anderson exercised over this branch of the Theatre work. Miss Anderson was literally worked out by August, when she had to leave the hospital, finding it necessary to take a long rest. (N.B.—There are no men orderlies at Royaumont. The heavy lifting in a theatre where between forty and fifty operations are done in a day, all of which fell on Miss Anderson and her immediate subordinate, can be imagined. At night, when the military stretcher bearers (invalid soldiers) were too done up to work any longer, Miss Anderson and her subordinate had to carry the stretchers to and from the wards to the theatre—often up and down two or three flights of stairs.)

Miss Etta Inglis.—Miss Inglis is the niece of Dr. Elsie Inglis. She joined the Royaumont staff in January, 1915, and has remained until the demobilisation, with the exception of a period during which she quitted the service—in 1915, after her first six months—and which was about six months so far as I can remember. Has always been remarkable, like Miss Anderson, as a hard worker. She was promoted, like Miss Anderson, to be an Auxiliary Nurse in 1917. Was on the Villers Cotterets staff. Worked very hard and coolly during the three days. As Auxiliary Nurse in the Second Operating Theatre at Royaumont, was frequently on duty fifteen and eighteen hours out of the twenty-four, being responsible, with her subordinate, for cleaning the theatre after the work stopped, which very often was not till the early hours of the morning.

Miss Chapman.—Joined Royaumont staff, I think, in summer of 1915. Has remained until the demobilisation. Has always been a hard and thoroughly efficient worker, very cool during the trying time at Villers Cotterets, when she worked almost without rest during the three days. Promoted Auxiliary Nurse, 1917.

Miss Agnes Rolt.—Miss Rolt joined the Royaumont staff, to the best my memory, in 1915. She was promoted Auxiliary Nurse in 1917. She was for some time on the Villers Cotterets staff, and was acting as Second Sister-in-Charge under a professional Sister during the three days.

Miss Smieton.—Miss Smieton joined Royaumont staff, so far as I can recall, in the spring of 1916. She was Laboratory Orderly for some months

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in Royaumont Laboratory, under a trained bacteriologist, that autumn, and when the new hospital in Villers Cotterets was started was Laboratory assistant, and later on carried on the work under one of the doctors who only gave part time to the Laboratory. During the three days she was very useful helping the theatre staff when her own work was done, and helped considerably with the packing of the equipment for salvage. When she came down to Royaumont she organised the "traffic" from the Receiving Ward to the three theatres and two X-Ray rooms, thereby saving much confusion and congestion, and exercised considerable discretion in watching the waiting cases and sending men out of their turn to be operated on when she observed their condition changing for the worse. Miss Smieton kept on at her self-imposed task (she was not needed in the Royaumont Laboratory) all day and often all night, right through the offensive. She was also responsible for seeing that no glimmer of light got from the corridors outside which would have given away the position of the hospital to the raiding squadrons passing over, and for calming the nerves of the wounded men lying in rows along the corridors awaiting their turn for operation.

Miss Armstrong.—Miss Armstrong is an Australian who came over for war work. Joined the Royaumont staff, I think, in 1917, and was clerk in the Military Bureau at Villers Cotterets. Was in charge of the military records when the offensive began, and was responsible for saving them, and smoothing the work of the evacuation to Royaumont, and the transference of the Royaumont records (as a hospital of the Red Cross working attached to the Army) into the stream of the Villers Cotterets records (an Army hospital) when the two hospitals began working as one. Was sent up to Villers Cotterets with one of the chauffeurs to salve important material, and was literally bombed off the road during a low flying attack. The car was left on the road, and the military lorry next to it was destroyed by a bomb. The clerk and the chauffeur lay flat in an adjoining field, and several bombs fell in the field. (I don't know whether this incident has anything to do with the award—I gather not, as the chauffeur who drove her is not mentioned in the list.) Miss Armstrong, like the volunteer orderlies already mentioned, helped largely by coolness and hard work at Villers Cotterets to pull the hospital through that trying period.

Miss Daunt.—Miss Daunt joined Royaumont staff, I think, in summer of 1917. She was hall porter at Royaumont. When Miss Nicholson ordered all the cars at Royaumont to Viller Cotterts to evacuate the hospital on the afternoon of May 30th, Miss Daunt, who can drive, offered to pilot the Ford car, which had not a chauffeur, but was asked instead to go as "mate" on a larger ambulance—which, like two others that were got into going order, and made the journey, was at that moment in dock—and which, owing to some slight repair not having been completed, needed someone beside the driver continuously to pump petrol.

When her duties as porter were over—and during this period they included the despatch of forty funerals, and the solacing of all the relatives of wounded, dying and dead men who arrived at the hospital—Miss Daunt, like the Secretary and other members of the Office staff, used to volunteer for orderly duty in the hospital. As porter, although a delicate woman, and physically frail, she had an enormous amount of stretcher-bearing to do.

Miss Murray.—Miss Murray joined the Royaumont staff as a chauffeur in the summer of 1917, if I remember correctly, and became Head of Garage by seniority that winter. The Garage distinguished itself all through the offensive and counter-offensive by its almost continual work, the chauffeurs rarely getting more than six or at most seven hours off duty for rest and sleep during the twenty-four. They normally had to drive fifteen miles to the Hôpital d'Evacuation at Senlis, whence we fetched our wounded, and about six miles or so to the railway station at Beaumont, whence we usually evacuated them. It was no uncommon thing for over 100 stretcher cases (four to each car) to be brought from Senlis, and as many evacuated to Beaumont, during the day, in addition to all the other transport work of the day. Our cars were frequently borrowed by the officers at Senlis, and Creil and Beaumont to convey wounded from the trains to other hospitals. Work went on day and night, and at night there were nearly always air attacks on the roads and villages en route, by low-flying machines trying to smash up convoys and bomb reinforcements. The roads were choked, one way, by a retreating army, and the other by reinforcements, and no lights were allowed to be carried. The Garage was especially plucky in that it returned again and again to Villers Cotterets, after the town was officially evacuated, to salve stores and apparatus from our camp, and to try to get away the personal baggage of the personnel, quite deliberately risking being bombed or hit by shell fire. The stuff salved was invaluable to us, particularly the Villers Cotterets store of petrol, without which our cars could not have done all the work they accomplished for Senlis. All the Garage staff was praiseworthy. They all did the runs that fell to their share. In honouring the Chief Chauffeur I suppose the idea has been to honour the entire Garage staff.

Miss Fulton.—Miss Fulton joined in February, 1918. Left in June. Returned for three months in September. Like Miss Smeale, Miss Fulton owes her Croix de Guerre not to the recommendation of her own unit, but to the officer in charge of the evacuation of the Soissons hospitals on May 28th. (I think that is the day.) Miss Fulton was one of the drivers who took up reinforcements to Villers Cotterets on May 27th, and her ambulance, and that of Miss Smeale, the chauffeur (whose work, seeing that the wounded arrived by train at the camp siding, was chiefly transport of stores and the collection of the Villers Cotterets hospitals—not only ours—milk supply from farms as far dstant as Chèsy, beyond La Fertè Millon), was borrowed by the sorely pressed—and taken by surprise—medical staff in Soissons to help evacuate the wounded. This was done under fire, and at one time our two ambulances were taking wounded out of Soissons on one side while the Germans were entering the city on the other side. They never quite knew whether, on the return journey to load up again in Soissons, they might run into the advance guard of the enemy. We never heard much about their work from these two girls, but evidently it was thought of highly, as they have been recommended for the Croix de Guerre by the officer in charge. Miss Fulton is a New Zealander who came home for war work.

Miss Smeale.—Miss Smeale joined as chauffeur in 1917. Was given the light Ford, and sent to Villers Cotterets, where she collected the milk and did the transport work, occasionally carrying wounded for the other

hospitals in the town to and from the main station. See above remarks, as they apply to Miss Smeale. Miss Smeale was a trained masseuse, and was working in this capacity when I left Royaumont.

Miss Salway.—Miss Salway was not mentioned in telegraphed list, but I believe she has also been decorated. Like Miss Fulton and Miss Armstrong, she is from the Dominion, and came home for war work. She overstated her age and came out to Royaumont in 1916 at the age of 21. She worked very hard as a ward orderly until she injured her back—carrying stretchers, I believe, though I do not quite remember. She was then transferred to the Office, and became military *Vaguemestre* (in charge of the soldiers' correspondence) and Porter at the camp at Villers Cotterets. Worked very hard during the critical three days, helping in all directions. Remained till the last helping to pack. Was allowed—alone of all the staff—to have a bicycle at the camp, for her daily runs to the Post Office to collect the mail. She had her chance to get away, on her bicycle, in the afternoon, but preferred to wait for the lorry, in order to be able to bring away with her a little old fox-terrier which had got left behind, by accident, by a battery of British R.F.A. in the retreat of the 5th Army in March, and which she found in her bed! Both dogs were got away from Viller Cotterets. Arrived at Royaumont, where we had a soldier as *Vaguemestre*, Miss Salway came to help my dept. in the X-Ray room, and worked hard and very long hours. On the hospital being taken over by the Army on July 18th she became *Vaguemestre*. (Her bicycle was lost, of course—probably taken by escaping refugees.)

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H. Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. Peace has now been declared, but the Sick and Wounded are still on our hands, and will need to be cared for. The Committee therefore urge for continued and even greater support from the public to meet the many demands that are still coming from the various Units. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units should be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

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CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,
(Opposite the Abbey),
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1st, 1919.

The Chair will be taken at 8 p.m., by
The Right Hon. Lord PARMOOR.
For Names of Representative Men and Women Speakers see Daily Press.
DOORS OPEN 7 p.m.
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